

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01
AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-07 /065 W
-----081122Z 113287 /12

P R 081050Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6045
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, TU
SUBJECT: GOT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND WAYS USED BY THIRD COUNTRIES
TO LIMIT POPPY GROWING

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON TURKISH MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE KORKUT OZAL DECEMBER 30 (REPORTED EARLIER SEPTTEL)
MINISTER ASKED FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING HOW OTHER
POPPY GROWING COUNTRIES - HE MENTIONED YUGOSLAVIA AS AN
EXAMPLE - WERE LIMITING EXPANSION OF POPPY GROWING AREAS.
MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS SOME PRESSURE FROM
POLITICIANS IN TURKEY TO EXTEND POPPY ACREAGE. HE WAS,
HOWEVER, RESISTING IT.

2. TURKEY IS NOW IN THIRD YEAR OF ITS POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM,
MINISTER NOTED. IT IS NOW TIME TO EXPECT THAT PROBLEMS MIGHT
BE COMING UP AND HE HAD IN FACT BEGUN TO OBSERVE
SIGNS THAT SOME COULD BE EMERGING. IF PRICES PAID TO
FARMERS WERE TOO ATTRACTIVE, INCREASING NUMBERS OF FARMERS
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN GROWING THE CROP. IT IS IMPORTANT,
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THEREFORE, MINISTER SAID, TO KEEP PRICE FROM GOING TOO
HIGH.

3. AMBASSADOR SHARED CONCERN OF MINISTER THAT PRICES FOR
POPPY CAPSULES WERE HIGH IN TURKEY AND THAT THIS SITUATION
COULD CAUSE TURKEY TO ALLOCATE TOO MUCH ACREAGE TO POPPY
GROWING. HE AGREED TO TRY TO GET INFORMATION REQUESTED.

4. MINISTER REMARKED THAT HE HAD IN MIND USING INTEGRATED POPPY SYSTEM. DR. AHMET RUMELI, WHO SAT IN ON MEETING, LATER ELABORATED TO E/OM COUNSELOR WHA MINISTER WAS STARTING TO THINK ABOUT. MINISTER'S IDEA, RUMELI SAID, WAS TO ESTABLISH COMPANY THAT IOULD DEAL WITH THE POPPY INDUSTRY FROM PRODUCTION THROUGH PROCESSING AND MARKETING. COMPANY WOULD CONTROL POPPY PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION AT EVERY STAGE. BY SUPPLYING FARMERS WITH FERTILIZERS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER INPUTS AND MAKING CREDIT AVAILABLE TO THEM, AND, IN SHORT, GIVING FARMERS VESTED INTEREST IN THE COMPANY, GOT CONTROL OF TOTAL POPPY CYCLE WOULD BE FACILITATED. RUMELI SAID THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF OPIUM PROCESSING PLANT NOW IN PLANNING WAS IN FACT A STEP IN THIS DIRECTION.

5. MINISTER OZAL IN MENTIONING THE PROCESSING PLANT SAID THAT IT COULD HAVE AS MUCH AS A 30,000-TON ANNUAL CAPACITY. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSING SOME SURPRISE AT THIS FIGURE, REMARKED THAT,IN HIS VIEW, IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP THE PLANT DOWN TO A 20,000 OR, FAR BETTER, A 10,000-TON LEVEL. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO KEEP THE CAPSULES OUT OF THE HANDS OF ILLEGITIMATE DEALERS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION ON METHODS USED BY OTHER POPPY GROWING COUNTRIES FOR LIMITING ACREAGE. IN LATER DISCUSSION, DR. RUMELI EXPLAINED THAT THE TURKS WERE TURNING TO THE US BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT DEPTH OF CONCERN FOR INTERNATIONAL OPIUM PROBLEM HAD LED USG TO PUT TOGETHER INFORMATION NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE IN EXTENT AND QUALITY. GOT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES IN THIRD COUNTRIES THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN POINT TO, INCLUDING ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTS THAT MAKE THEM WORK.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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